

## Engineer's fall from launch pad still being probed

March 24 2011, By MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer

(AP) -- NASA says there were no safety gear malfunctions in last week's death of a launch pad worker.

The <u>engineer</u> fell to his death March 14 from the shuttle <u>launch pad</u> at Florida's Kennedy Space Center. Endeavour was being prepped for an April liftoff.

<u>NASA</u> said the worker wasn't wearing a safety harness, nor was he required to be wearing one.

Shuttle program manager John Shannon said in Houston on Thursday that no fall-protection devices failed. And he added that there is no evidence of foul play. The investigation continues.

United Space Alliance employee James Vanover was killed in the fall. The 53-year-old and about to be laid off because the shuttle program is ending.

Vanover was checking for debris on the pad, nearly 200 feet up, when he fell.

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